



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 26, 2003

CONTACT:
MICHELLE MOWERY JOHNSON
(615) 313-4707 / OFFICE
(615) 272-0845 / PAGER

CHILD SUPPORT LICENSE REVOCATION PROGRAM MAJOR SUCCESS FOR TENNESSEE CHILDREN

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS COLLECTED THROUGH THE PROGRAM

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— Thousands of Tennessee children are receiving needed support following the Department of Human Services license revocation program. More than 20,000 parents who owed at least \$500 in overdue child support were notified in August that their driver's, professional and recreational licenses were at risk if they didn't fulfill their obligations soon. Many parents got the message.

The Child Support Division credits the collection of nearly five million dollars in support to the program. The largest single payment was \$20,078. The average payment was \$145.

"The license revocation program works," said Human Services Commissioner Gina Lodge. "It is meant to send a strong message to parents that they must own up to their responsibilities and support the children they helped bring into this world. Paying their court-ordered support is not only the legal thing to do, but the right thing to do."

While thousands of parents made arrangements to pay all or part of their overdue child support, others did not. Nearly 7,000 licenses were revoked, including 6,374 driver's and 322 hunting and fishing licenses. A handful of professional licenses issued by the Departments of Commerce and Insurance, Health and Education were also revoked.

State law allows the Tennessee Department of Human Services, which administers the Child Support Program, to revoke the licenses of parents who fail to pay their court-ordered support. Other enforcement tools include administrative wage assignments, liens and tax intercept.

For more information on the Child Support Program, visit the DHS website at:
<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/child-support.htm>

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CITIZENS PLAZA, 15TH FLOOR
400 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37248
615.313.4700